Amarra Junior

2.1.1 User Manual

www.amarraaudio.com

Amarra Junior User Manual Table Of Contents

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Thank you!
Thank you for purchasing the Amarra Junior Computer Music Player. You are about to enjoy the ultrafidelity sound of Amarra. Designed to work with your Apple™ MacIntosh Computer and with iTunes, Amarra Junior provides a seamless integration for high resolution music playback.

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San Anselmo, CA USA 94960-2552
phone: 1-415-480-1601
www.amarraaudio.com
support@sonicstudio.com

The Amarra Junior Computer Music Player User Manual -- December 2010

1.0 Minimum System Requirements

Computer:

- Intel based Mac with 10.5.x, or 10.6.x
  NOTE: G5/PPC supported for uncompressed files only
- RAM: 3 GB RAM minimum, 4 GB or more preferred
- USB port for iLOK security key (if using an iLok)

Peripheral FireWire Adaptors supported:

- OHCI compliant PCCard, PCI card, ExpressCard or PCIe card

Software:

- Mac OS X 10.5.x or 10.6.x and above recommended
  NOTE: 10.4.X supported for uncompressed files only
- Amarra Junior
- iTunes

We recommend a fresh install of the operating system on a clean disc. This can prevent problems later on.

We also highly recommend that your computer be used exclusively for music playback. Email, web browsers, screen sharing and other applications can all affect performance.

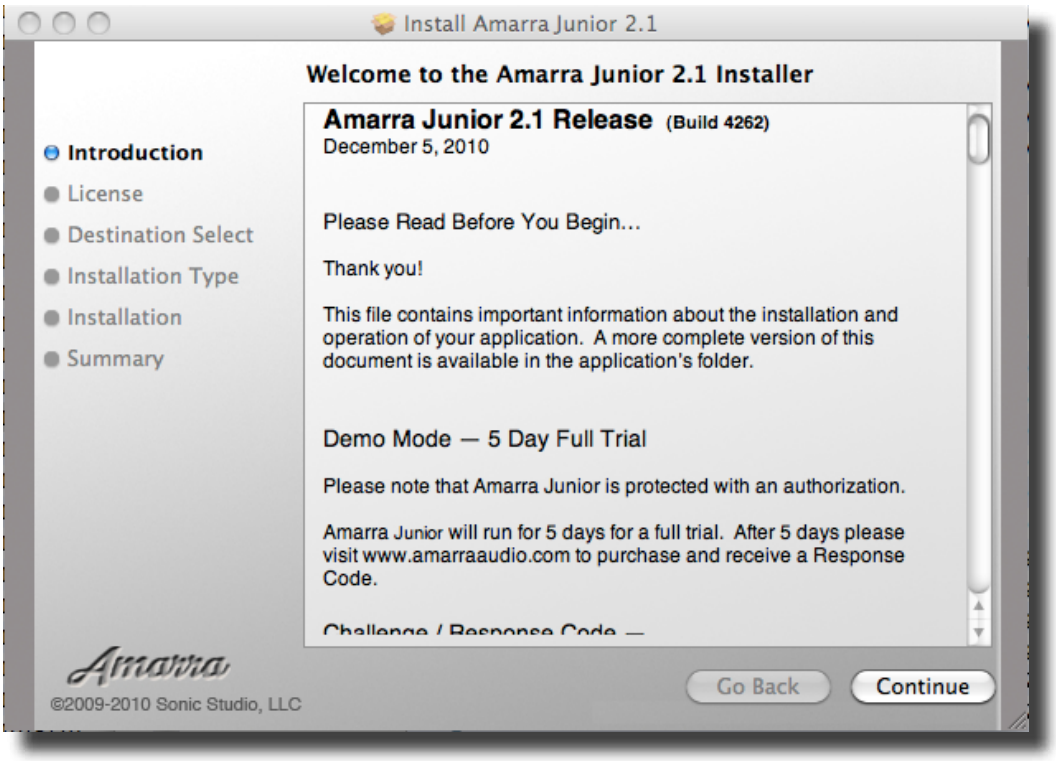
Note that USB hubs, audio or optical disc peripherals are generally not supported.

2.0 Installing Amarra Junior

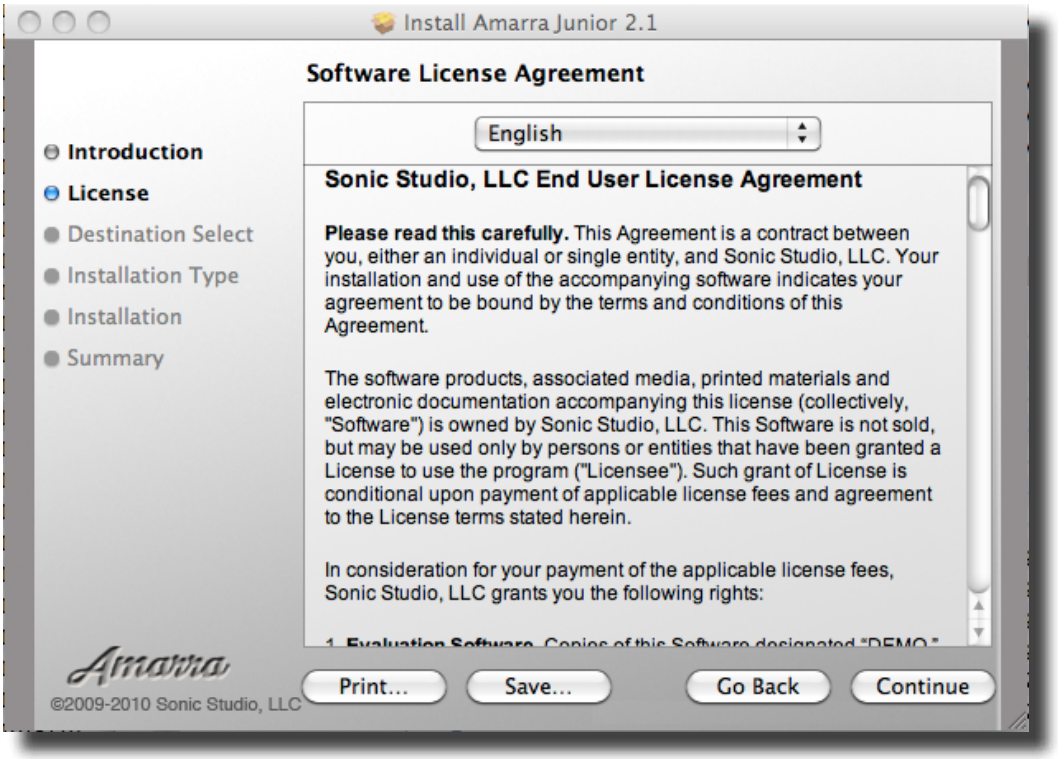
The Amarra Junior installer will install the following items on to your Macintosh Computer:

- Amarra Junior 2.1 Computer Music Player
- Amarra Junior iTunes Plugin
- Amarra Junior FLAC components
- PACE iLok extension
- Amarra Junior Documentation

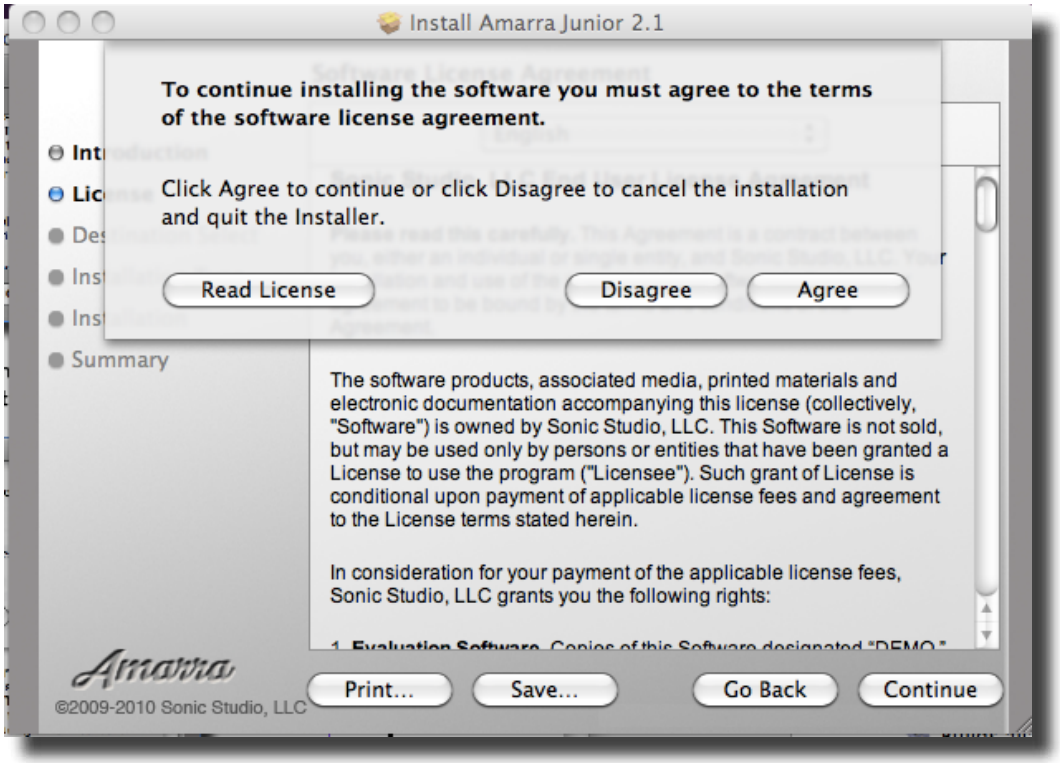
Double-click on the Amarra Junior Installer that you downloaded. This screen appears:


Install Amarra Junior 2.1
Welcome to the Amarra Junior 2.1 Installer
Introduction
License
Destination Select
Installation Type
Installation
Summary
Amarra Junior 2.1 Release (Build 4262)
December 5, 2010
Please Read Before You Begin...
Thank you!
This file contains important information about the installation and operation of your application. A more complete version of this document is available in the application's folder.
Demo Mode — 5 Day Full Trial
Please note that Amarra Junior is protected with an authorization.
Amarra Junior will run for 5 days for a full trial. After 5 days please visit www.amarraaudio.com to purchase and receive a Response Code.
Amarra
©2009-2010 Sonic Studio, LLC
Go Back
Continue

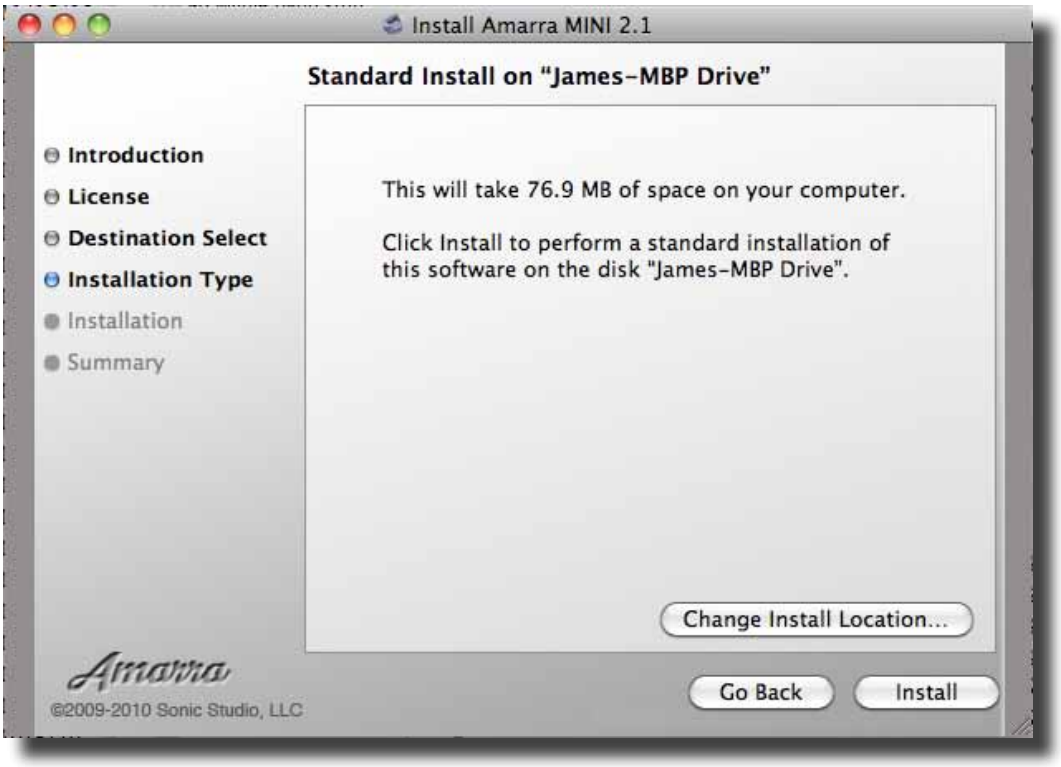
- Select Continue.


Install Amarra Junior 2.1
Software License Agreement
Introduction
License
Destination Select
Installation Type
Installation
Summary
English
Sonic Studio, LLC End User License Agreement
Please read this carefully. This Agreement is a contract between you, either an individual or single entity, and Sonic Studio, LLC. Your installation and use of the accompanying software indicates your agreement to be bound by the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
The software products, associated media, printed materials and electronic documentation accompanying this license (collectively, "Software") is owned by Sonic Studio, LLC. This Software is not sold, but may be used only by persons or entities that have been granted a License to use the program ("Licensee"). Such grant of License is conditional upon payment of applicable license fees and agreement to the License terms stated herein.
In consideration for your payment of the applicable license fees, Sonic Studio, LLC grants you the following rights:
Amarra
©2009-2010 Sonic Studio, LLC
Print...
Save...
Go Back
Continue

End User License Agreement.
Please take a moment to read this important document,
then select Continue.


Install Amarra Junior 2.1
To continue installing the software you must agree to the terms of the software license agreement.
Click Agree to continue or click Disagree to cancel the installation and quit the Installer.
Read License
Disagree
Agree
Summary
The software products, associated media, printed materials and electronic documentation accompanying this license (collectively, "Software") is owned by Sonic Studio, LLC. This Software is not sold, but may be used only by persons or entities that have been granted a License to use the program ("Licensee"). Such grant of License is conditional upon payment of applicable license fees and agreement to the License terms stated herein.
In consideration for your payment of the applicable license fees, Sonic Studio, LLC grants you the following rights:
Amarra
©2009-2010 Sonic Studio, LLC
Print...
Save...
Go Back
Continue

Select Agree to continue installing Amarra Junior.



Select Install to complete the Amarra Junior installation process.

Enter your password and click on OK.

Amarra and all of its components are installed.

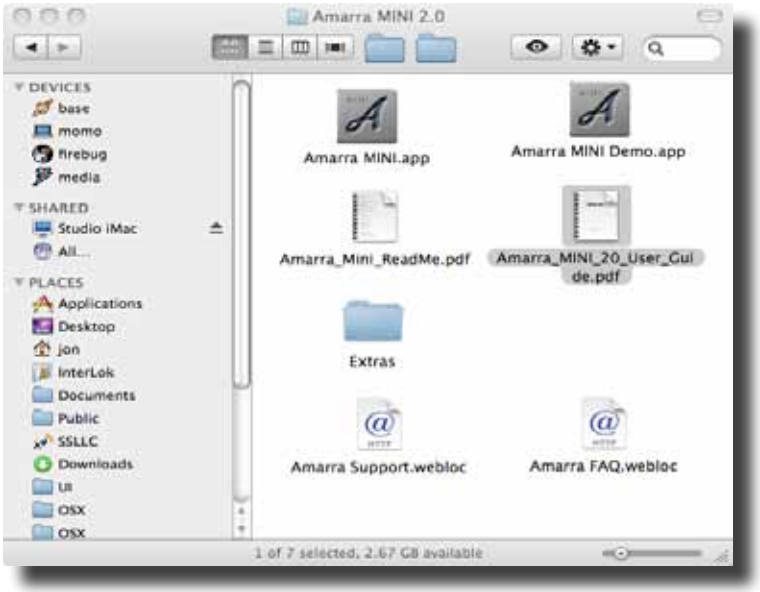
- Amarra Junior application is installed into the Applications folder.
  It is installed here: ~/Applications/Amarra Junior 2.1
- The Amarra iTunes Plugin facilitates the interaction between Amarra and iTunes.
  It is installed here: ~ /Library/iTunes/iTunes Plug-ins/
- The iLok Extensions are installed on your boot volume.
- Amarra Junior installs the FLAC components required for FLAC file playback
  They are installed here: ~/Library/Components/

Success!

Select the Close button to quit the Amarra Junior installer.

2.1 Uninstalling Amarra Junior

To uninstall Amarra Junior and remove all files please run the "Uninstall Amarra Junior.app". This will remove the application, iTunes plug-in, FLAC component, and PACE extensions. You may be prompted for your password.



3.0 Authorizing Amarra Junior

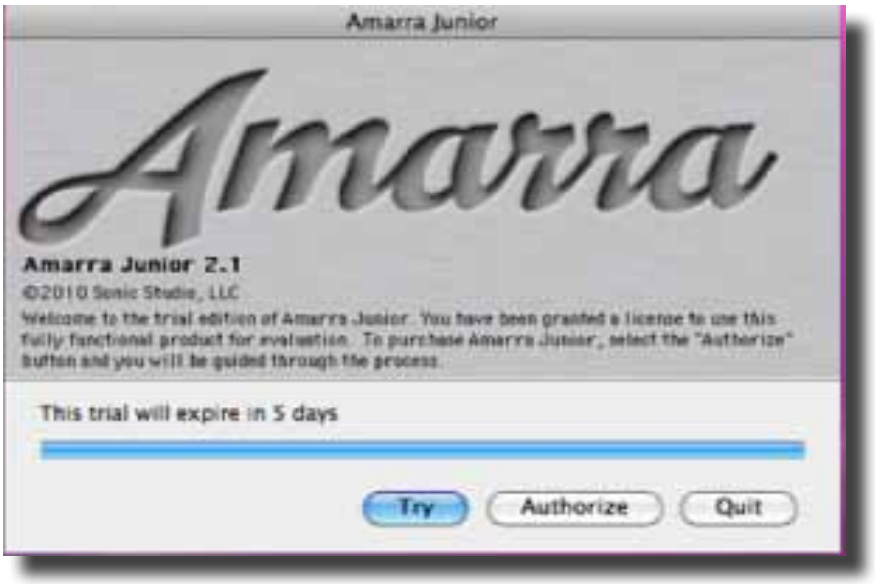
Amarra Junior is protected with PACE's Anti-Piracy InterLok copy protection. Amarra Junior uses a Challenge / Response code for authorization. Please follow the instructions below for more information.

3.1 5 Day Trial for Running Amarra Junior

When you launch Amarra Junior the first time, you will be asked to either "Try" or "Authorize" your product.

1. Click on the "Try" button to begin or continue your trial.

2. After the trial period expires you will need to authorize Amarra Junior to continue using the application.


Amarra Junior
Amarra
Amarra Junior 2.1
©2010 Sonic Studio, LLC
Welcome to the trial edition of Amarra Junior. You have been granted a license to use this fully functional product for evaluation. To purchase Amarra Junior, select the "Authorize" button and you will be guided through the process.
This trial will expire in 5 days
Try
Authorize
Quit

3.2 Challenge / Response Authorization

Amarra Junior uses a Challenge / Response code for authorization.

Clicking on the "Authorize" button on the initial page brings you to the Authorization Page.

1. Choose "Copy Challenge" button.
2. Open an email program and paste this information into the email.
3. Please include your Amarra Junior Serial Number or Proof of Purchase.
4. Send the email to support@sonicstudio.com.
5. Sonic Studio will reply with a Response Code to the email address provided in (4).
6. Paste the Response Code into the Response field.
7. Choose the "Next" button to complete the authorization process.

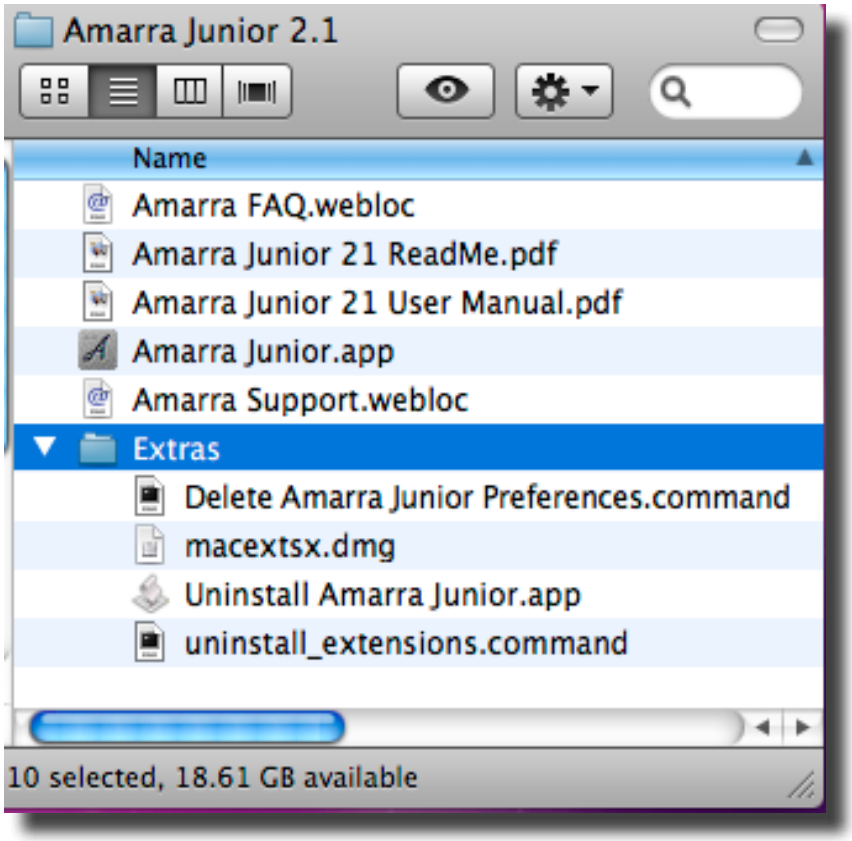
Amarra Junior
Amarra Junior requires authorization. Please copy challenge request and send to support@sonicstudio.com. Include serial number or proof of purchase. Paste response and select "Next" or Read Response" to authorize.
Challenge
SPAR WAYS IBEX TIED OXEN CORD SODS ERGO WEDS HAIL PUMP SWIM LOBS PEGS MALL REEF LANK SHOP BUCK
Copy Challenge
Save Challenge...
Response
Read Response...
< Back
Next >
Cancel

- Click Next after pasting in the Response Code

8. This will bring you to the Thank you screen.
   Click on Finish to finalize the registration process.
9. Amarra Junior is now licensed and will automatically launch.

4.0 Launching and Using Amarra Junior

Open the Applications folder on your Mac, locate the Amarra Junior folder.
This folder contains the Amarra Junior application as well as documentation and an Extras folder



Amarra Junior Application folder

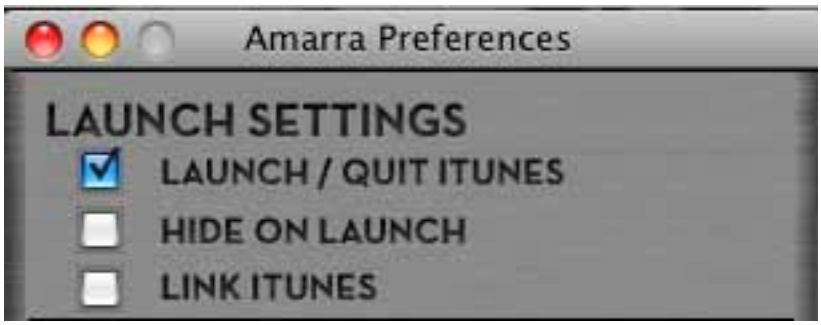
NOTE: Launch Amarra first, not iTunes. Double clicking on the Amarra Junior icon launches Amarra Junior and iTunes.

HINT: Install a shortcut for Amarra Junior on your Dock.:

- Locate the Amarra Junior.app icon.
- Click once and hold the icon then drag to the dock.
- The Dock for your system will appear.
- Place (drop) the Amarra Junior icon and release on the dock.
- You can move its location within the Dock later.

NOTE: When you launch iTunes, Amarra Junior will automatically launch. Likewise, when iTunes quits Amarra Junior will be shutdown.
In iTunes under Visualizer Plugin there is an Options menu command which can be used to disable the auto launch / quit feature.

Access Amarra Junior Preferences from the Amarra Junior Menu



Amarra Junior Preferences Window showing
the LAUNCH/QUIT ITUNES checkbox.

5.0. Amarra Junior Interface Module

The Amarra Junior control interface module's features are explained below:

1. Amarra/iTunes Status Indicator
Indicates playback status:
Blue = Amarra is playing
Orange = iTunes is playing

2. Time Display
The Time Display shows the current time in the track.

3. Transport Controls
The Previous Track, Play/Pause, and Next Track buttons. are located here.

4. Volume Controls
The Volume Slider controls the volume. Mute and Full Gain buttons are also provided.

5. iTunes Lock
This keeps Amarra Junior locked to iTunes (when moved).

TIP: Use the Arrow keys to adjust the volume. Use the Option-Arrow key for fine adjustment.

TIP: Use the Volume control on your Apple Remote or on iTunes to control the volume.

5.1. Using Amarra Junior and iTunes

Amarra Junior runs alongside Apple's iTunes program. This allows you to manage and access all your music through the main iTunes Music Library or through custom iTunes Playlists.

As shown below, Amarra Junior occupies the area to the left of your iTunes window:

Amarra Junior and iTunes side by side.

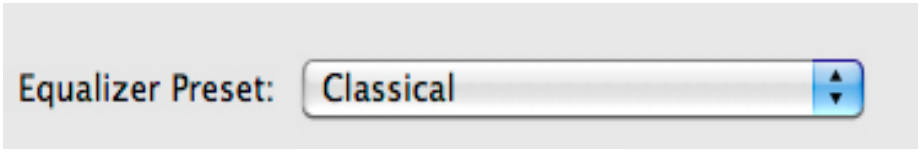
You can use iTunes like you always have, select the songs or a playlist and play. Amarra Junior follows what you do in iTunes and takes over playback of:

- Full resolution uncompressed 44.1 (16 or 24 bit) AIFF or WAV files
- Most compressed MP3 files
- ALAC, FLAC or AAC files
- Redbook CDs at 44.1 kHz sample rates

NOTE: Amarra Junior can not play Protected AAC files, using iTunes for playback those files.

5.1.1 Amarra EQ and iTunes EQ Presets

Amarra Junior will use the EQ setting for your Tracks and set the Amarra EQ to match. The small indicator to the right of the Time Display will turn Blue when the EQ is engaged.

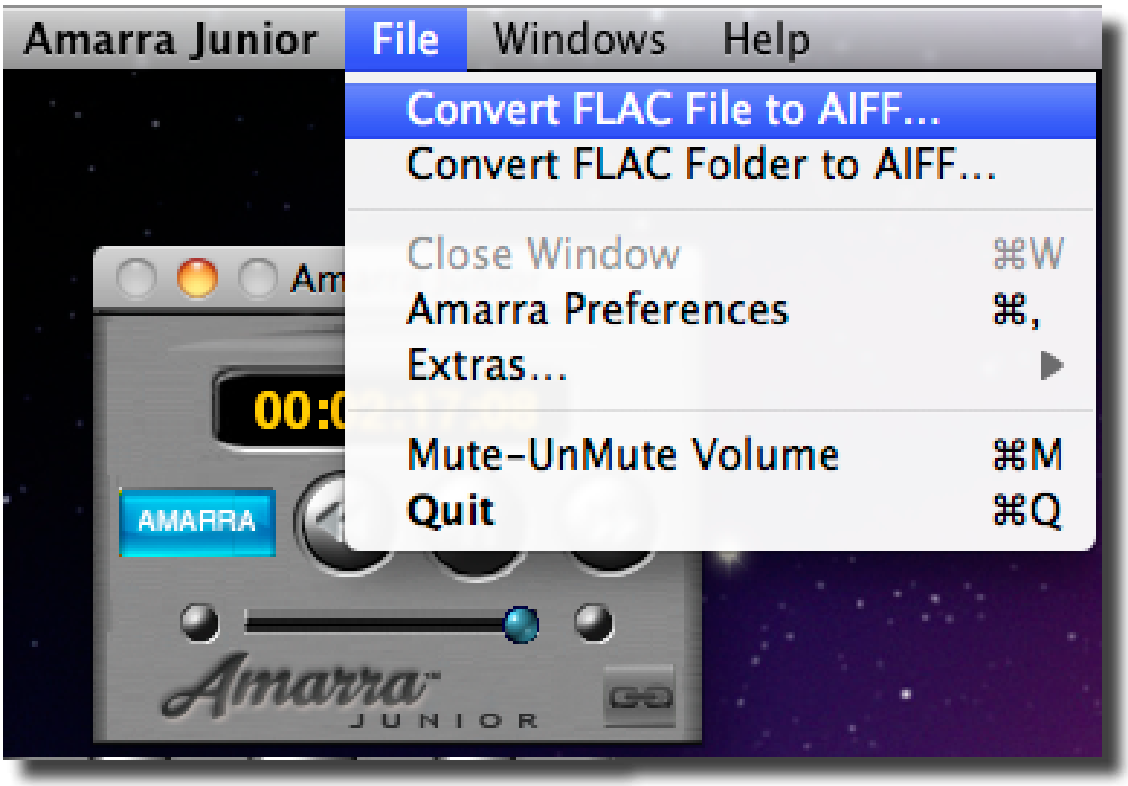


The EQ engaged based on setting from iTunes Track Information
(iTunes EQ is accessible using Get Info in iTunes on the selected Track).

5.2 FLAC Conversion and Playback

In addition to playing back native FLAC natively, Amarra Junior supports conversion routines for FLAC. Using the FLAC conversion routines under the FILE menu it is possible to convert FLAC files or entire folders of FLAC files to AIFF files and to add them to iTunes automatically.

Converting FLAC files to AIFF files allows iTunes to find and add metadata for album artwork, artist and song titles as an example.



The File menu in Amarra showing the Convert FLAC file to AIFF...
and Convert FLAC Folder to AIFF... commands.

5.2.1 Convert FLAC File to AIFF

This command launches the built-in FLAC to AIFF conversion routine.

You will be prompted to locate the files to convert and to specify a destination folder to store the converted files. You will also be asked whether you would like to add the files to iTunes after they are converted.

5.2.2 Convert FLAC Folder to AIFF

This command launches the built-in FLAC to AIFF conversion routine. You will be prompted to locate a folder to convert and to specify a destination folder to store the converted files. You will also be asked whether you would like to add the files to iTunes after they are converted.

5.2.3 FLAC File Playback Using A Playlist

To play FLAC files, use the "Open Tracks From Finder" command and navigate to the FLAC files you wish to play. The FLAC files you choose will be added to a playlist.

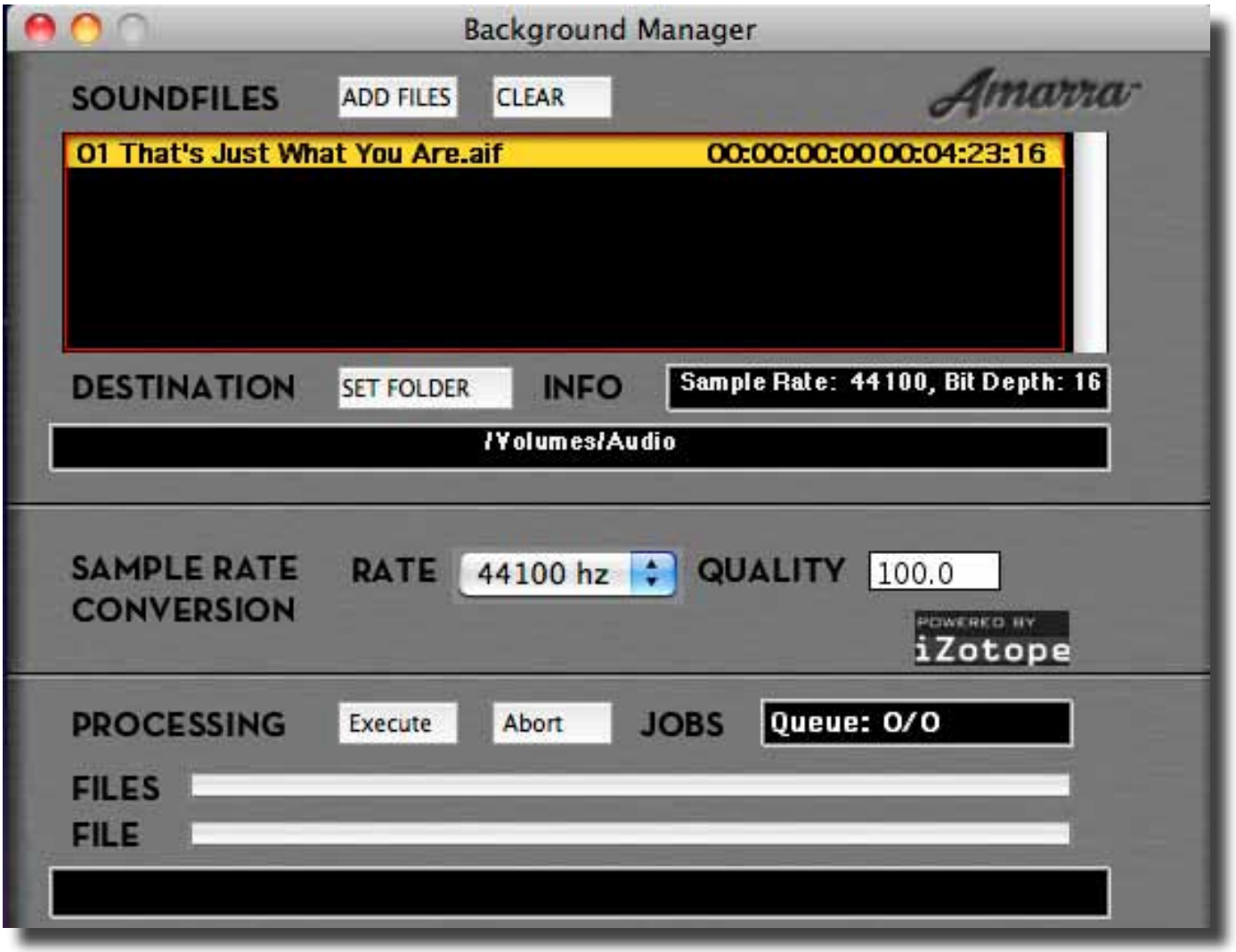
TIP: Save your FLAC Albums as a Playlist for easy playback.

5.5 Amarra Background Manager

The Background Manager is used to perform Sample Rate Conversion, FLAC to AIFF Conversion and monitor the status of those conversions.

Amarra Junior comes with a high quality Sample Rate Conversion. Sample Rate Conversion preserves pitch and duration of the original sound file and will create a new soundfile with a 44100 Hz sample rate. Amarra Junior supports the ability to convert a file to a variety of sample rates to 44100 hz. An additional Quality field is provided as well. A higher quality will take a longer time to process.

There are different parameters in this window, each is described below:



5.5.1 SOUNDFILES

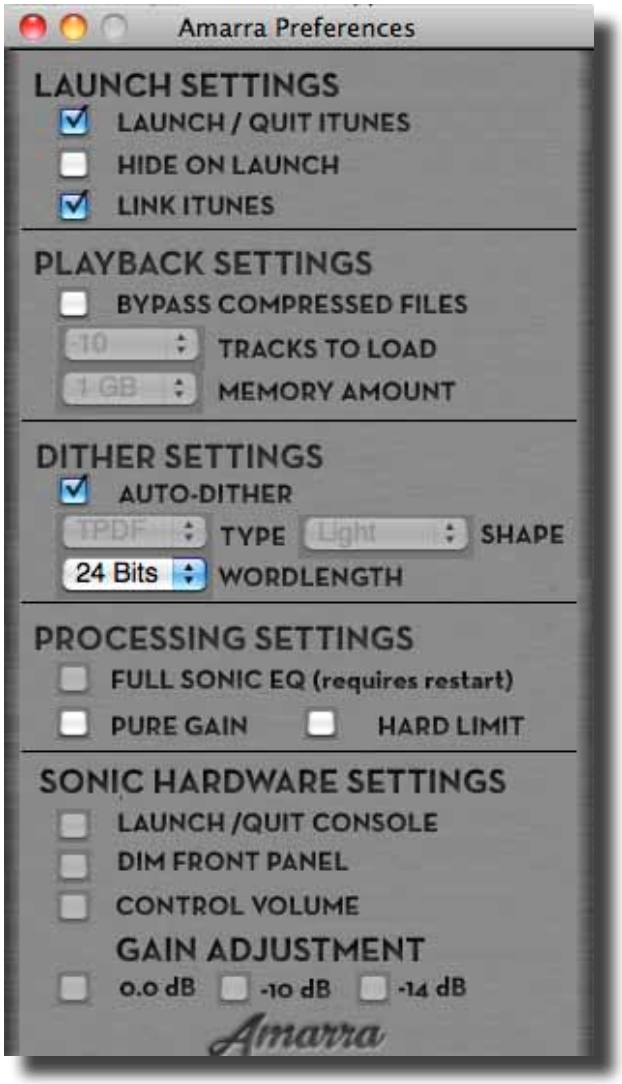
The ADD FILES button can be used to add files to be sample rate converted. You can drag AIFF or WAV files into this window. Information on the file will be displayed in the INFO field. You can set a destination folder or use the default folder which is set to the same folder as the original file.

5.5.2 PROCESSING

Once files are added you can start the Sample Rate conversion using the Execute button. The progress will be shown along with the name of the destination file.

5.6. Amarra Junior Preferences

This section presents an overview of the Amarra Junior Preferences.



The Amarra Junior Preferences Window is accessed from the Amarra -> Preferences menu or CMD+,

5.6.1 Launch Settings

Launch/Quit iTunes: When selected, launches and quits iTunes when Amarra Junior launches or quits.

Hide On Launch: When selected, hides Amarra Junior after it launches.

Link iTunes: When selected, links or docks Amarra Junior next to the iTunes window.

5.6.2 Playback Settings

Bypass Compressed Files: When selected, Amarra Junior skips playing compressed files. This is recommended for older Macs and operating systems.
Tracks To Load: selects the number of track that are loaded when using a Playlist with Add Consecutive Tracks. [This feature is disabled in Amarra Junior.]

Memory Amount: The amount of Random Access Memory or R.A.M. that is allocated for Cache playback. [This feature is disabled in Amarra Junior.]

5.6.3 Dither Settings

Auto-Dither: When selected, automatically enables dither when the volume control of Amarra Junior is reduced.

Type: Amarra Junior provides 1 type of dither that can be used to adjust the dither processing for audio playback. If Dither is enabled, then the output of Amarra will be dithered to the setting of the output wordlength specified. This will generally provide better sound when the volume control in Amarra Junior is used or if your DAC only supports a limited word length (16 or 20 bits for example).

1. Dither Type – Shaped PDF: This radio button selects Sonic Studio's proprietary spectrally shaped, triangular PDF (probability density function) redithering.

2. Dither Type – MBIT+: This radio button selects iZotope's proprietary psychoacoustic MBIT+ redithering. [This feature is disabled in Amarra Junior.]

Word Length: this selector determines the final word length, either 16. 20 or 24 bits. In general, dither should be enabled to ensure linear output when Amarra Junior's volume is reduced.

NOTE:: When the Output Wordlength is set to 24 bits the dither will be "disabled" if the Gain has not been modified (at full volume). Once the Gain is adjusted then dither is re-enabled.

For more information on dither, visit:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dither#Digital_audio

5.6.4 Processing Settings

Full Sonic EQ: This feature is disabled in Amarra Junior.

Pure Gain: "Pure Gain" is a preference for calculating gain coefficients when using the volume

control. This refers to how Amarra Junior handles Gain Settings.

- "Pure Gain" uses an algorithm which is more efficient.
- It also means some gain values will not be exactly what is typed. For example -6.0 would really be -6.00133

Hard Limit: Hard Limit refers to how gain is processed. It's most useful for compressed music.

- This has to do with how the floating point values are handled after decoding.
- The maximum 24 bit value is really 0.99999989
- In Core Audio the maximum floating point value is 1.0
- Values in between this can cause distortion.
- This preference will catch this and can improve the sound of the overly compressed files

5.6.5 Sonic Hardware Settings

This section of the Preferences window relates to how Amarra Junior interacts with Sonic Studio-brand Model 302. Model 303, Model Four and Model 305 FireWire interfaces. It also applies to most Metric Halo-brand hardware.

This feature is disabled in Amarra Junior.

Launch/Quit Console: Automatically launches and quits the Sonic Console application when Amarra Junior is launched. You must specify the version of Sonic Console will be launched by placing that application in the Amarra Junior application folder.

Dim Front Panel: Selecting this preference dims the front panel LEDs on your Sonic Studio hardware.

Control Volume: Selection of this preference synchronizes the digitally-controlled analog volume section of Sonic Studio hardware with the volume fader in the Amarra Junior interface.

Gain Adjustment: The 3 settings in this section reduce the output volume of your Sonic Studio interface by 0, -10 or -14 dB respectively. This is useful for adjusting the output volume of your hardware to match the input level of your amplifier or pre-amplifier.

6.0 Registering Your Amarra Junior Software

In order to receive warranty service, you must register your product with Sonic Studio. This may be done at any time with proof-of-purchase.

We strongly recommend that you register with Sonic Studio as soon as you purchase your software. This will ensure the best possible support and keep your advised of new Amarra Junior releases.

NOTE: We value your privacy. Your contact information will not be shared with any third party.

1. Your product will be registered with us.
   Registration is used as proof of ownership if your product is ever lost or stolen.

2. Sonic Studio updates Amarra Junior software on a regular basis.
   This allows us to keep you informed of updates as they become available.

Please register your Amarra Junior software using our automated registration Web page at:

http://www.sonicstudio.com/register

Alternatively, our mail address is:

Amarra Software registration
Sonic Studio, LLC
330 Sir Frances Drake Blvd
Suite A
San Anselmo, CA USA
94960-2552
Phone: +1-415-480-1601
Fax 1-775-330-8923

If you encounter issues using Amarra Junior please refer to the troubleshooting information below for assistance. If none of these steps address your problem please contact your dealer or Sonic Studio support for more help.

7.0 Upgrades to Amarra MINI and Amarra

The policy for upgrading from Amarra Junior to Amarra is the difference in price. Please contact Sonic Studio or your local Amarra representative for ordering information.

8.0 Troubleshooting Guide

Basic Macintosh Setup Tips

iTunes:

- Disable the Crossfade Songs preference in iTunes
- Disable the Sound Enhancer preference in iTunes
- Disable the Sound Check preference in iTunes

Energy Preferences:

- Disable Sleep and other Energy saving Preferences.

Spotlight:

- Disable Spotlight

Security:

- Disable Infrared

Time Machine:

- Disable TimeMachine on your media drives.

Folder Actions:

- Disable All Folder Actions

Also:

- We recommend a fresh install of the operating on a clean disc.

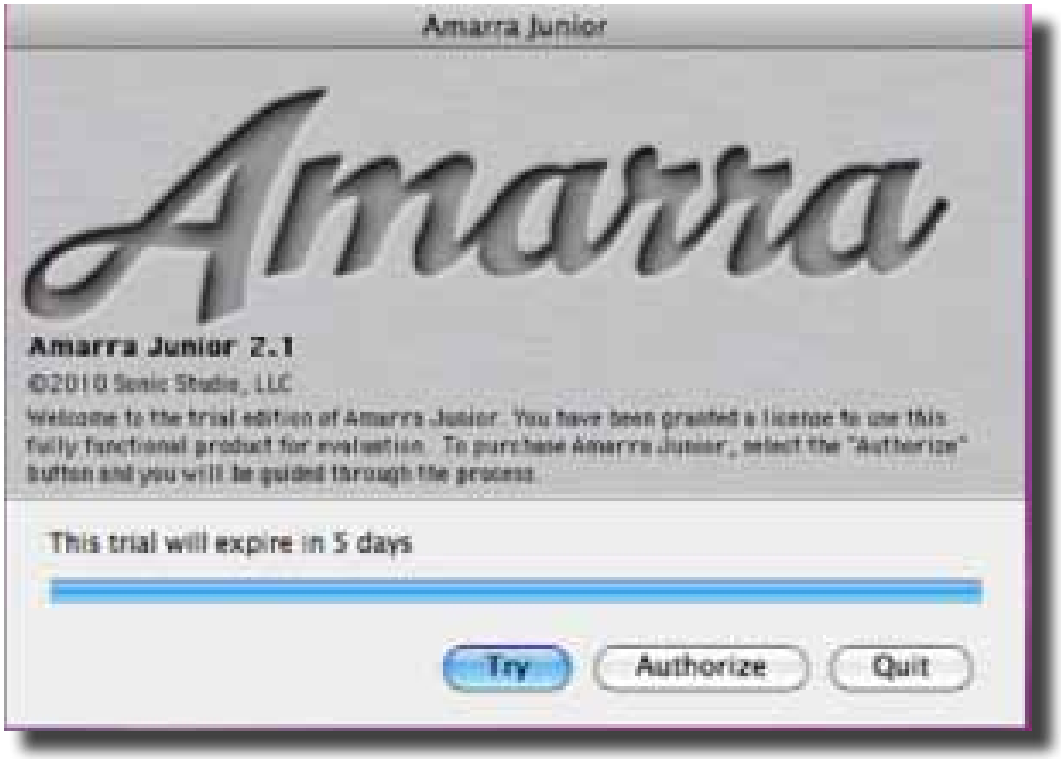
- We also highly recommend that your computer be used exclusively for music playback, and that all unnecessary devices be disabled.

- Email, web browsers, screen sharing and other applications will affect performance. They should not be running when using Amarra Junior.

See below for answers to common issues.

Issue:

Amarra Junior does not run without authorization.
Amarra Junior has not been authorized. A valid Amarra license or can not be found.



Solution:

- Authorize your software using a Response Code.
- License your product
- Please refer the Licensing section of this document for more information.

Issue:

Amarra Junior fails to operate or run.

Solution:

- Amarra Junior requires a license to operate

Issue:

How to set up a remote volume or hard drive

Amarra does not support streaming of remote songs.

Amarra requires that all volumes/drive be mounted on the computer as a shared volume.

Solution:

- Mount the remote volume with Read/Write Access on your local Macintosh - Use the Network (Cmd-K) to locate and mount the remote volume
- In iTunes use the Add to Library command to add the songs from the Mounted Volume
- Mount the remote volume with Read/Write Access on your local Macintosh

Issue:

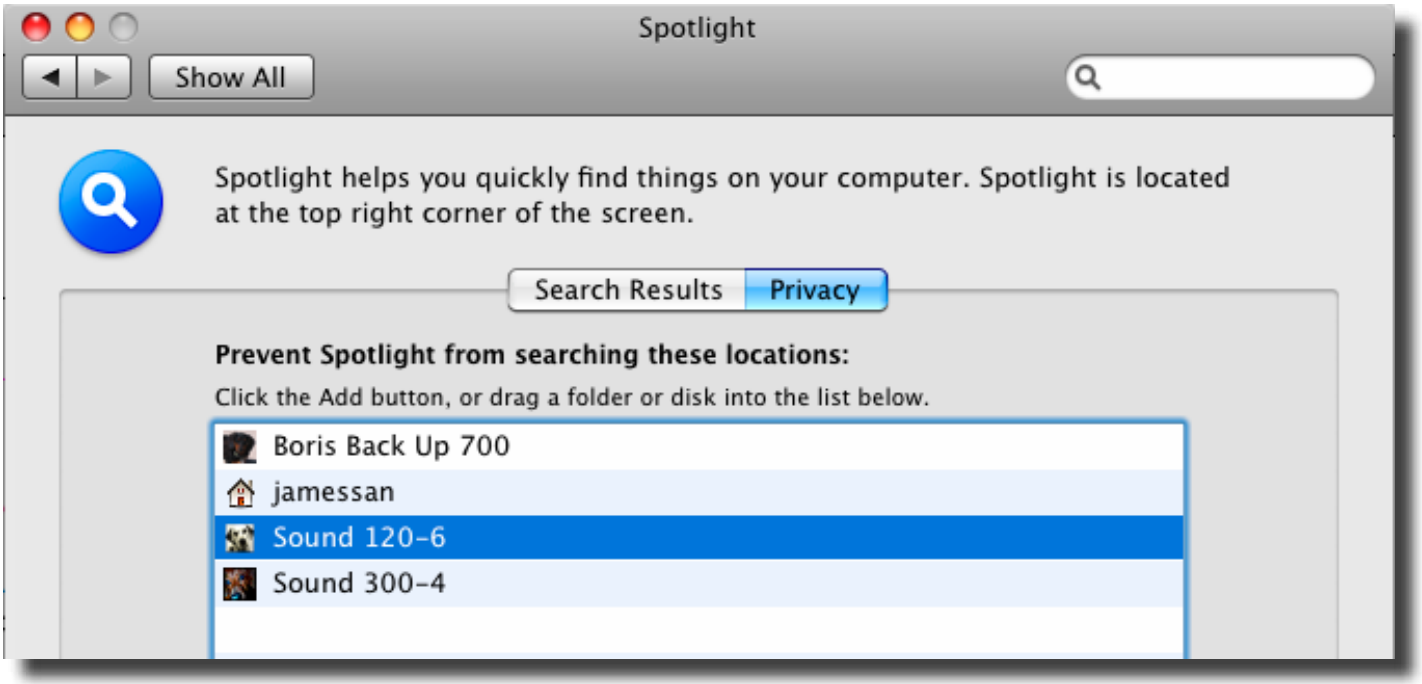
Audio Clicking or Ticking Sound.

Solution:

Disable Spotlight (add volumes to the Spotlight Privacy Preference)

Open System Preferences and locate the Spotlight Preference pane:

Select the Privacy Tab and add all your media drives:


Spotlight
Show All
Spotlight helps you quickly find things on your computer. Spotlight is located at the top right corner of the screen.
Search Results
Privacy
Prevent Spotlight from searching these locations:
Click the Add button, or drag a folder or disk into the list below.
Boris Back Up 700
jamessan
Sound 120-6
Sound 300-4

Solution:

Disable Network Shared Access.
Open System Preferences and locate the Sharing Preference.

Disable Web Sharing, Remote Login and Remote Management.

NOTE: For Sonic Studio Remote Support Services, the Remote Management preference may be required.

Solution:

- Disconnect multiple FireWire devices
- Reduce daisy-chained connections
- Use a FireWire hub

Solution:

- Shut down other applications such as email and browsers.

Solution:

- Increase the amount of RAM in your computer.

Solution:

- Check that all drives are HFS formatted.
  Amarra does not support FAT32 drives.

Solution:

- Change the Sample Rate manually using Audio Midi Setup to a different value.
  Then switch the Sample Rate back.

Issue:

Songs do not change or sound correctly.

Solution:

- Disable the Crossfade Songs preference in iTunes
- Disable the Sound Enhancer preference in iTunes
- Disable the Sound Check preference in iTunes
- Disable Sleep and other Energy Preferences.

Issue:

Amarra does not play audio.

Solution:

- Files may not play if the Permissions are not set to Read / Write.
  Check the permissions and ensure Read/Write and access privledges.

Solution:

- Files may not playif the path is too long or contains non-ascii characters.
  Try moving the files to another location.

NOTE: Sound files with names that contain ":" or other foreign characters may not play properly. Changing the name of the soundfile can fix this.

Issue:

Sample Rate Does Not Change With Soundfile.

Does your device support the sample rates for your music?
Amarra Junior will only support 44100 Hz files.
Otherwise, iTunes will be used (and sample rate conversion may occur).

9.0 Support

We are committed to your successful use of Amarra and offer support for Amarra Junior through your local dealer or via email through Sonic Studio. Please ask your local dealer for assistance. They have a great deal of knowledge about Amarra Junior and are an excellent resource.

9.1 Amarra Team Contact Info:

Please email support with questions.

support@sonicstudio.com

You can always find the latest information and updates for Amarra Junior on our website:

http://www.amarraaudio.com

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